THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS), the area to be notified under the scheme in the State (also known as defined area) is selected and notified by the State Governments. State Governments are free to notify and area for implementation for the insured crops under the CCIS, provided they have the yield data for the last 5 years as also the capability of conducting 16 crop cutting experiments at the end of every season in the area notified thereunder. Thus, the unit area for implementation of the CCIS may be a district, a tehsil, a taluka, a block, or any other smaller contiguous area subject to the above conditions.

Securing of Land by NAFED in Andhra Pradesh

503. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED has secured 20 acres of land at Mydukunu in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when was it secured;

(c) what are the objectives behind this move;

(d) whether there is any proposal to construct more sheds, cold storage and improvement of research centre at Mydukunu in Cuddappah district of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The land was taken on lease by NAFED in the first week of January, 1988.

(c) NAFED is engaged in the export of Onions. The plot has been given on lease to NAFED by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish an Onion Complex where it is intended to undertake research and developmental activities for the production of quality seeds of existing and new varieties of Onion. It has also been contemplated to utilise the land for sorting, grading and packing of Onion for export purposes.

(d) and (e) A shed for sorting, grading and packing of onion has been constructed. Research and development for re-production of quality seeds are being done through Associated Agricultural Development Foundation, a Research Organisation sponsored by NAFED Construction of more sheds at the land allotted to NAFED at Mydukur will be made depending upon the requirement. However, there is no proposal for construction of Cold Storage as the same is not recommended for storage of Onions.

Agro Technique

504. SHRI S S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Science Congress held at Panaji Goa recently put forward an alternate agricultural strategy of low cost non hazardous agro technique in which locally available materials play an important part;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to popularise the said agro technique in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sectional President (Agriculture) of the 80th Indian Science Congress held at Panaji Goa in his address expressed his personal

suggestions, with regard to certain low cost non-hazardous agro technique for qagrarian prosperity. The position that a number of recommendations like use of bio-fertilizers, crop residue management, control of diseases and pests through biological control, manipulation of agro-techniques and use of crop resistance varieties, etc. are already being practised to the extent possible. Further it had always been the endeavour of the Government to suggest cost effective agricultural strategies practices to the farming community for not only to sustain but also to increase food-grain production in the country.

Control of Left blight epidemic in Crops

505. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leef blight epidemic in crops can be controlled by the cow dung slurry spray in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to popularise the technology among the farmers throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such effective technology has been developed so far by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Agricultural Universities.

Promotion of Agro forestry and Orchards

506. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote agro-forestry and orhards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is promoting agro-forestry and orchards in the country under following project:—

(i) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas.

(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project.

(iii) Integrated Watershed management in the Catchments of Floods Prone River.

(iv) Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Zone and Temperate Fruits.

(v) Elimination of Jhum cultivation in Nagaland.

(vi) Establishment of nutritional gardens in rural areas.

Crop Insurance Scheme

507. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a crop insurance policy on experimental basis in 1991-92;

(b) if so, the areas and crops for which the scheme was implemented;

(c) the achievements of the scheme till date and whether this scheme is to be expanded to included all the crops and areas of Haryana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The present Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is in force in the country since 1-4-1965. The scheme is an area based and credit linked scheme applicable to all